

Appl. No. : 10/522,624
Amdt. Dated: August 13, 2007
Reply to Office Action of June 20, 2007

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REMARKS

Claims 1-15 stand rejected. Independent claim 1 has been amended herein. Therefore, claims 1-15 are pending and at issue.

As an initial matter, while the June 20, 2006 Office Action has been indicated as being final. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present Amendment as it simply clarifies the subject matter recited in independent claims 1 and 15 and does not add any new matter which would require additional searching by the Examiner.

Claims 1-11 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Stranberg. This rejection should be withdrawn as Stranberg fails to disclose or suggest one or more aspects recited in independent claims 1 and 15.

Specifically, Stranberg fails to disclose or suggest a collar that is continuously smooth and cylindrical along its entire hose contacting length as recited in independent claims 1 and 15.

In contrast, the collar disclosed in Stranberg includes a discontinuity between a smooth recess and a cylindrical threaded portion. The continuously smooth and cylindrical internal bore of the collar, as recited in claims 1-15, provides that even pressure is applied to the entire hose section. The discontinuity in the internal bore of the Stranberg collar would lead to stress concentrations that could damage the hose and weaken the connection between the hose and the fitting.

Therefore, as Stranberg fails to disclose or suggest one or more features recited in claims 1-11 and 13-15, the rejection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stranberg. Claim 12 depends from and more specifically recites the structure of independent claim 1. As discussed *supra*, Stranberg fails to disclose or suggest one or more features recited

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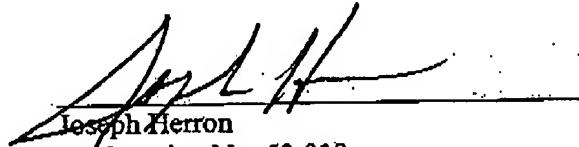
in independent claim 1. Therefore, as claim 12 depends from independent claim 1, the rejection of dependent claim 12 should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-15 and allowance of the case. If any fees are due in connection with this application, the Patent Office is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 19-1351. If such withdrawal is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (33025-400700) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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